

Applicant: Blodgett
Serial No.: 10/607,288

PATENT
Atty Docket: 18393-19

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8-9, and 12-21.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, and 11.

Please add new claims 23-34 as set forth below.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selectively extending and retracting a slide-out portion of a vehicle, comprising:

an elongated member movable relative to the vehicle;

a base member fixed relative to the vehicle; and

a drive system disposed on the elongated member, the drive system sized to move the elongated member relative to the base member, the drive system located in a space internal to said vehicle;

wherein the drive system comprises an electric motor and wherein said electric motor is disposed within the length of said elongated member.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated member comprises a top surface, two opposing sides joined to the top surface, and an inwardly projecting lip extending from a bottom edge of the opposing sides.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated member is slideably engaged with the base member.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a ~~wherein the base gear assembly~~ which comprises a rotatable shaft spanning

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between a first side of the base member and a second side of the base member, and a gear unitary with the rotatable shaft.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base member further comprises a mounting bracket angled to mount onto ~~the~~ a wheel well of a vehicle.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated member further comprises an acme screw engaged with an acme nut, the acme nut mounted to the base member.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the drive system ~~for extending and retracting~~ operates to extend and retract the slide member and the slide member is selected from the group consisting of an electric motor, an integral motor brake, a hydraulic motor, and a pneumatic mechanism.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated member further comprises an acme screw coupled to the drive system and engaged with an acme nut, the acme nut mounted to the base member.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selectively extending and retracting a slide-out portion of a vehicle, comprising:

an elongated member having a top surface, two opposing sides joined to the top surface, and an inwardly projecting lip extending from a bottom edge of the opposing sides, the elongated member also having a gear rack on a bottom surface of the elongated member and an acme screw mounted parallel to the gear rack;

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a base member fixed to the vehicle having a first mounting bracket coupled to a distal end of the base member and a second mounting bracket coupled to a proximal end of the base member, the base member also having an acme nut belt engaged with the acme screw, and also having a base gear assembly engageable with the gear rack, the base gear assembly having a rotatable shaft spanning between a first side of the base member and a second side of the base member, and a gear unitary with the rotatable shaft; and

a drive system for extending and retracting the elongated member coupled to the elongated member, the drive system located in a space internal to the vehicle.

12-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the drive system comprises an electric motor and wherein said electric motor is disposed within the length of said elongated member.

23. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising:

a second elongated member;

a second base member;

a first gear rack coupled to a bottom of said elongated member;

a second gear rack coupled to a bottom of said second elongated member;

a first base gear assembly disposed on said base member and engageable with said first gear rack ; and

a second base gear assembly disposed on said second base member and engageable with said second gear rack;

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wherein said first base gear assembly and said second base gear assembly are coupled by a cross-shaft.

24. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said base member includes a mounting bracket configured to mount to said vehicle.

25. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said base member includes a mounting bracket having a first area for mounting to a horizontal surface of said vehicle and a second area for mounting to a vertical surface of said vehicle.

26. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base member includes a horizontal bracket positioned to extend beyond a first side and a second side of said elongated member.

27. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising a mounting bracket having a first area for mounting to a horizontal surface of said vehicle and a second area for mounting to a vertical surface of said vehicle, wherein said mounting bracket couples to said horizontal bracket.

28. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said mounting bracket is sized and shaped to engage a horizontal surface and a vertical surface of a wheel well of said vehicle.

29. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a second elongated member;

a second base member;

a first gear rack coupled to a bottom of said elongated member;

a second gear rack coupled to a bottom of said second elongated member;

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a first base gear assembly disposed on said base member and engagable with said first gear rack ; and

a second base gear assembly disposed on said second base member and engagable with said second gear rack;

wherein said first base gear assembly and said second base gear assembly are coupled by a cross-shaft.

30. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base member includes a mounting bracket configured to mount to said vehicle.

31. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base member includes a mounting bracket having a first area for mounting to a horizontal surface of said vehicle and a second area for mounting to a vertical surface of said vehicle.

32. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base member includes a horizontal bracket positioned to extend beyond a first side and a second side of said elongated member.

33. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 32 further comprising a mounting bracket having a first area for mounting to a horizontal surface of said vehicle and a second area for mounting to a vertical surface of said vehicle, wherein said mounting bracket couples to said horizontal bracket.

34. (Newly Added) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said mounting bracket is sized and shaped to engage a horizontal surface and a vertical surface of a wheel well of said vehicle.